

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figure 1 is a copy of~~ **Figures 1a-1e** show a representation of a nucleotide sequence alignment between the open reading frames of the chimeric genes produced between the 99 bp nucleotide sequence encoding the carrot extensin leader sequence (bold type) and either the *Aspergillus niger* PhyA-1 gene (*PhyA-1.seq*; GenBank Accession No. M94550; SEQ ID NO: 3) or the *A. niger* PhyA-2 gene (*PhyA-2.seq*; SEQ ID NO: 1) obtained by the present inventors. The alignment was produced using the CLUSTAL W algorithm of Thompson *et al* (1994). Numbering refers to the nucleotide positions from the start of the chimeric *ext::PhyA* genes. Bars between the sequences represent identical nucleotide residues.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figure 2 is a copy of~~ **Figures 2a-2b** show a representation of an amino acid sequence alignment between two fusion polypeptides comprising the carrot extensin leader sequence (bold type) fused to either the *Aspergillus niger* PhyA-1 polypeptide (*PhyA-1.pro*; GenBank Accession No. M94550; SEQ ID NO: 4) or the *A. niger* PhyA-2 polypeptide (*PhyA-2.pro*; SEQ ID NO: 2) obtained by the present inventors. The alignment was produced using the CLUSTAL W algorithm of Thompson *et al* (1994). Numbering refers to the amino acid positions from the start of the chimeric polypeptides. Bars between the sequences represent identical amino acid residues.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 48, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

The nucleotide sequence of the modified *PhyA-1* gene is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, and the derived amino acid sequence encoded by this *PhyA-1* gene ~~*PhyA-2* gene~~ is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 52, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

Northern blot hybridisations have been conducted to confirm ectopic expression of the introduced phytase genes in transgenic tobacco, *A. thaliana* and subterranean clover plants.